



January 30, 2020

Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael Kubayanda, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Mark Acton  
Commissioner Ann Fisher  
Commissioner Ashley Poling  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

**RE: Docket No. RM2017-3**

Dear Commissioners,

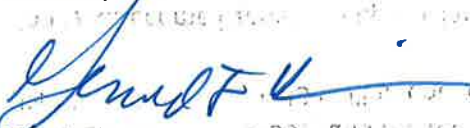
On behalf of Gleaners Community Food Bank (Gleaners) and the nearly 430,000 hungry neighbors we serve, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases - which are estimated to reach 7% per year, or 40% compounded over five years - will have a negative impact on Gleaners' mission to provide households with access to sufficient, nutritious food, and related resources. In service of this mission, over a year, Gleaners distributed more than 43 million pounds of food, providing nearly 36 million meals, in Southeast Michigan.

Today, direct mail generates approximately \$4 million (more than 5%) of Gleaners' annual income from public donations. Our organization currently spends approximately \$250,000 on outgoing postage in our direct mail outreach, thank you program correspondence, fundraising event invitations and administrative communications. Gleaners is not able to increase its expense budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40% over the next five years and still run our direct mail program at this level of success.

Fulfilling our mission is critically dependent on our ability to operate and develop resources efficiently and in a cost-effective way. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means likely would result in necessary reductions to our use of mail and could impact our capacity to provide programs, thus limiting our ability to grow to meet the needs of neighbors in our community facing food insecurity. In short, losses in revenue could mean members of our community will not get to eat the food they need.

Given the negative impact this proposal would have on our organization, rippling to the thousands of families, seniors and children who depend on our programs, Gleaners Community Food Bank urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald F. Brissón  
President & CEO

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